



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Public Workshops Scheduled On Zoo's Development Plan

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The first in a series of 3 Open House/Workshops on the Seneca Park Zoo's expansion plan will be held this **Thursday at the Seneca Park Zoo, 2222 St. Paul Street, from 11 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** The workshops have been scheduled during the month of October to ensure that residents from all areas of Monroe County have an opportunity to share ideas and learn more about the development plans for the Seneca Park Zoo's expansion.

"I am gratified by the continuing public support for the Zoo's expansion," said County Executive Jack Doyle. "From the outset in 1990, and again in 1997 through to 2000, we have welcomed and encouraged public participation in this development process. Today, I invite all residents to participate in any of the upcoming Open House/Workshops scheduled for the month of October."

Following this Thursday's workshop, two additional workshops are scheduled on:

- Thursday, October 12, (2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) at the Greece Town Hall
- Thursday, October 19, (2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) at the Perinton Town Hall

"We are focused on the future and the development potential of both Seneca Park and the wonderful New Zoo within it," said Doyle. "The community's continuing involvement in this process is key to meeting the balanced needs of the majority who support the expansion, while addressing the concerns of those who have expressed reservations about the plan."

The Zoo Development Plan has been under review and subject to revision since 1997 when the Zoo's attendance rose dramatically with the introduction of the Rocky Coasts Exhibit. The ever-popular, every changing dynamics of the zoo generated the need for a re-exploration of the zoo's potential and the developments required to make it happen. The zoo's development plan released in September is subject to continuing revision but, on the whole, represents the best blend of two outstanding resources; Seneca Park and the expanded New Zoo within it.

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In addition to the three scheduled public Open House/Workshops, two additional meetings, known as 'scoping' meetings, will be held at the start of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) phase of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process. These meetings will solicit additional ideas, suggestions, and concerns that should be addressed in the development of the EIS.

Those scheduled dates are:

- Tuesday, October 24, (7:00 p.m.) Pinegrove/Senior Center in the Town of Irondequoit
- Wednesday, October 25, (7:00 p.m.) Rochester Museum and Science Center

A draft environmental impact statement should be available for both public review and comment by early spring, 2001. Additionally, a final environmental impact statement should be available by late spring, 2001. Final adoption of the plan is then subject to Legislative approval.

Speakers Bureau

"Over the past two months, more than 650 letters have been forwarded to a broad cross section of community groups inviting each to schedule a speaker on the topic of the New Zoo's expansion," said Doyle. "Representatives from the Zoo's administration and from the Seneca Park Zoo Society have scheduled forty four such presentations

Speakers continue to be available (to groups of 10 or more) to give a summary overview of the planned Zoo expansion and to answer questions or take comments regarding the plan. To schedule a group presentation on the Zoo, or any other topic regarding Monroe County government, phone the Monroe County Speakers Bureau at 428-4250.

The draft development report - about 400 pages in length - is available in hard copy at the main library downtown or can be accessed by using an internet terminal from any of the libraries in the local public library system. It can also be accessed through the County's web site (www.co.monroe.ny.us) under the Parks Department subsection.

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*For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
See us on the web at www.co.monroe.ny.us*